Amendments to the claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all earlier versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a degenerative joint disease which includes matrix degradation, in a patient in need thereof, ~~wherein~~ said degenerative joint disease ~~is~~ being selected from the group consisting of osteoarthrosis, spondyloses and cartilage atrophy, ~~wherein said~~the method ~~comprises~~ comprising inhibiting matrix degradation by administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula I

A-B-X-E-F-K-(D)-TIC-G-M-F'-I (I)

wherein:

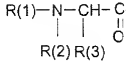
A is hydrogen, (C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkoxycarbonyl or (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl, each of which is optionally substituted one, two or three times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_3)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, or each of which is optionally substituted one time by (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryloxy, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryloxy, and is further optionally substituted one or two times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyloxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl,

carbamoyl, which is optionally substituted on the nitrogen by (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl,

(C_6-C_{12})-aryl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)heteroaroyl, wherein the heteroaryl, aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

or

of formula II,



II

wherein

R(1) is hydrogen,

(C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkoxycarbonyl or (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl, each of which is optionally substituted one, two or three times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_3)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, or each of which is optionally substituted one time by (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryloxy, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryloxy, and is further optionally substituted one or two times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyloxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl is

optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

(C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl,

carbamoyl, which is optionally substituted on the nitrogen by (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl,

or

(C_6-C_{12})-aryl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)heteroaroyl, wherein the heteroaryl, aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

R(2) is hydrogen or methyl,

R(3) is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, wherein the alkyl is optionally monosubstituted by amino, substituted amino, hydroxy, carbamoyl, guanidino, substituted guanidino, ureido, mercapto, methyl-mercapto, phenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, phthalimido, 4-imidazolyl, 3-indolyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl or cyclohexyl, wherein the substituted amino is –NH-A'- and the substituted guanidino is–NH-C(NH)-NH-A'-, wherein A' is

hydrogen,

(C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkoxycarbonyl or (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl, each of which is optionally substituted one, two or three times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_3)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-

C_5)-alkyl, or each of which is optionally substituted one time by (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryloxy, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryloxy, and is further optionally substituted one or two times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyloxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

(C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl,

carbamoyl, which is optionally substituted on the nitrogen by (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl,

or

(C_6-C_{12})-aryl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)heteroaroyl, wherein the heteroaryl, aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl;

B is Arg, Lys, Orn, 2,4-diaminobutyroyl or L-homo-arginine,

wherein the amino or the guanidino group of the side chain of Arg, Lys, Orn, 2,4-diaminobutyroyl or L-homo-arginine is independently optionally substituted by

hydrogen,

(C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkoxycarbonyl or (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl, each of which is optionally substituted one, two or three times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_3)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, or each of which is optionally substituted one time by (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryloxy, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryloxy, and is further optionally substituted one or two times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyloxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

(C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl,

carbamoyl, which is optionally substituted on the nitrogen by (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl,

or

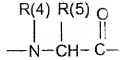
(C_6-C_{12})-aryl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)heteroaroyl, wherein the heteroaryl, aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl;

X is of formula IIIa or IIIb

G'-G'-Gly (IIIa)

G'-NH-$(CH_2)_n$-CO (IIIb),

wherein G' independently of one another is of formula IV



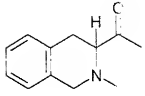
IV

wherein R(4) and R(5) together with the atoms they connect to form a heterocyclic mono-, bi- or tricyclic ring having 2 to 15 carbon atoms, and n is 2 to 8;

E is phenylalanine optionally substituted by halogen in the 2-, 3-or 4-ring position, tyrosine, O-methyltyrosine, 2-thienylalanine, 2-pyridylalanine or naphthylalanine;

F is covalent bond, or neutral, acidic or basic aliphatic or aromatic amino acid, which is optionally substituted in the side chain;

(D)-TIC is of formula V



V

G is G' or a covalent bond;

F' is covalent bond, $-NH-(CH_2)_n-$ wherein n is 2 – 8, or basic amino acid Arg or Lys in the L or D form, wherein the guanidino group or amino group of the side chain of the Arg or Lys is optionally substituted by

hydrogen,

(C_1-C_8)-alkyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkoxycarbonyl or (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl, each of which is optionally substituted one, two or three times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_3)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl-amino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, or each of which is optionally substituted one time by (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfonyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-

alkylsulfonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_4)-alkylsulfinyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryloxy, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryloxy, and is further optionally substituted one or two times by carboxyl, amino, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkyloxycarbonyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aryl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl-(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

(C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl,

carbamoyl, which is optionally substituted on the nitrogen by (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_6-C_{12})-aryl,

or

(C_6-C_{12})-aryl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaryl or (C_3-C_9)heteroaroyl, wherein the heteroaryl, aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl;

I is -OH, $-NH_2$ or NHC_2H_5;

K is covalent bond or $-NH-(CH_2)_x-CO$, wherein x is 1 to 4; and

M is covalent bon, or neutral, acidic or basic aliphatic or aromatic amino acid, which is optionally substituted in the side chain;

or its physiologically tolerable salts thereof.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein

B is Arg, Orn or Lys,

wherein the guanidino group or the amino group of the side chain is each independently optionally substituted by (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaroyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl or (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, wherein the aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one,

two, three or four times by carboxyl, amino, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, halogen, di-(C_1-C_4)-alkylamino, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl or (C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl;

E is phenylalanine, 2-chlorophenylalanine, 3-chloro-phenylalanine, 2-fluorophenylalanine, 3-fluorophenyl-alanine, 4-fluorophenylalanine, tyrosine, O-methyl-tyrosine or β-(2-thienyl)alanine;

K is covalent bond; and

M is covalent bond.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

A is hydrogen, (D)- or (L)-H-Arg, (D)- or (L)-H-Lys or (D)- or (L)-H-Orn;

B is Arg, Orn or Lys,

wherein the guanidino group or the amino group of the side chain is optionally substituted by hydrogen, (C_1-C_8)-alkanoyl, (C_6-C_{12})-aroyl, (C_3-C_9)-heteroaroyl, (C_1-C_8)-alkylsulfonyl or (C_6-C_{12})-arylsulfonyl, wherein the aroyl, arylsulfonyl and heteroaroyl are each independently optionally substituted one, two, three or four times by methyl, methoxy or halogen;

X is Pro-Pro-Gly, Hyp-Pro-Gly or Pro-Hyp-Gly;

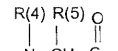
E is Phe or Thia;

F is Ser, Hser, Lys, Leu, Val, Nle, Ile or Thr;

K is covalent bond

M is covalent bond

G is of the formula IV,



IV

wherein R(4) and R(5) together with the atoms they connect to form pyrrolidine, piperidine, tetrahydro-isoquinoline, cis- or trans-decahydroisoquinoline, cis-endo-

octahydroindole, cis-exo-octahydro-indole, trans-octahydroindole, cis-endo-, cis-exo-, trans-octahydrocyclopentano[b]pyrrole, or hydroxyproline;

F' is Arg; and

I is OH.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I is H-(D)-Arg-Arg-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Thia-Ser-(D)-Tic-Oic-Arg-OH, H-(D)-Arg-Arg-Pro-Pro-Gly-Thia-Ser-(D)-Tic-Oic-Arg-OH, H-(D)-Arg-Arg-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Phe-Ser-(D)-Tic-Oic-Arg-OH, H-(D)-Arg-Arg-Hyp-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-(D)-Tic-Oic-Arg-OH or H-(D)-Arg-Arg-Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-(D)-Tic-Oic-Arg-OH.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I is D-arginyl-L-arginyl-L-prolyl-L-prolylglycyl-3-(2-thienyl)- L-alanyl-L-seryl-(3R)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinolinecarbonyl-(2S,3aS,7aS)-octahydro-1H-indole-2-carbonyl-L-arginine.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the administration is carried out by subcutaneous, intraarticular, intraperitoneal or intravenous injection or transdermal administration.